

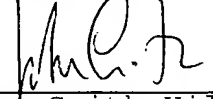
In the Claims:

Claims 1-12, 13, 22, 23 and 26-29, cancel.

REMARKS

A Schedule of Amendments is submitted herewith. The above amendments are presented in order to place this application in better condition for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

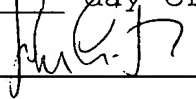
  
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

David A. KRITLER et al

Art Unit: 1762

Application No: 10/055,165

Examiner:

Filed: January 21, 2002

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PREPARING  
A COATED OPTICAL FIBER

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS

Paragraphs [0013], [0015], [0016], and [0018], rewrite as follows:

[0013] (Amended) In accordance with a [fourth] first aspect of the invention there is provided a method of preparing a length segment of optical fiber, comprising employing a first gripping element to grip the length segment at a first location, employing a second gripping element to grip the length segment at a second location, spaced from the first location, urging the second gripping element away from the first gripping element, and employing a strain gauge to generate a strain gauge signal that depends on tension in the fiber between the first and second gripping elements.

[0015] (Amended) In accordance with a [sixth] second aspect of the invention there is provided apparatus for preparing a length segment of fiber, comprising a fiber guide for guiding a loose end segment of fiber in a direction transverse of its length towards a gripping location, and at least one gripping element at the gripping location for gripping the loose end segment, and wherein the fiber guide includes at least one wire member.

[0016] (Amended) In accordance with a [seventh] third aspect of the invention there is provided apparatus for cleaving a length segment of optical fiber, comprising a first clamp for gripping the length segment at a first location, a

second clamp for gripping the length segment at a second location, spaced from the first location, an actuator for urging the second clamp away from the first clamp to tension the fiber segment between the first and second clamps, a cleaving element, a translation means for moving the cleaving element between a first location, in which it is spaced from the fiber segment, and a second location, in which it contacts a fiber segment held under tension between the first and second clamps, and an acoustic means for vibrating the cleaving element and inducing a fracture in the fiber segment when the cleaving element is in the second location.

[0018] (Amended) In accordance with a [ninth] fourth aspect of the invention there is provided apparatus for preparing a length segment of optical fiber, comprising an intake means for receiving the length segment, a tool that acts on the length segment in preparing the length segment and, in so doing, creates fiber debris, a debris container, a duct leading from the vicinity of the tool to the debris container, and a vacuum pump connected to the container for inducing a flow of air through the duct for carrying fiber debris into the container.